register showing particulars of night sales sanctioned is maintained.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Have not the Government got applications for these?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I got applications.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is it not possible to get information from those applications?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—But till recently, they were not registered in my Office. Since I have ordered recently that such applications should be registered, it will be possible hereafter.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—If applications were received, we can get the information, if they are looked into.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Since they were not registered, they are kept amongst other bundles. To get the information from that, much time and labour will be necessary.

President.—It is difficult to find out the information. Otherwise, by opening a register, we could have got the information easily.

Occasional licenses for the sale of liquor.

124. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to inform the number of occasional licenses for short periods given annually for the sale of (a) toddy and (b) arrack in the last 5 years, and whether such licenses will be given in the ensuing year?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The number of occasional licenses given in—

1096	...	41
1097	...	28
1098	....	39
1099	....	56 and
1100	....	69

[N. B.—These figures represent the total of both arrack and toddy shops. Separate figures for the two kinds are not available.]

It cannot now be said whether such licenses will be issued in the ensuing year.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The figures show that there is an increase. If we are working up to the goal of Prohibition, there cannot be an increase.

President.—The figures would show that they are increasing steadily; is it not?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—That is in regard to occasional shops during fairs and festivals. Fairs and festivals are sometimes held in the frontiers of the State. People from

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British Malabar and Travancore flock there. These shops are, therefore, patronised, not only by the inhabitants of this State, but also by foreigners.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is the Hon'ble Member for Excise aware that no licenses are issued in British India for occasional shops?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I can only say that even this year the Madras sale notification regarding toddy and arrack shops contains provisions to that effect, and we have only followed the rules in force in the Madras Presidency.

I refer to Rule 41 of the Madras sale notification. It runs as follows:—

"The right is reserved to the Collector to grant 'Occasional licenses' for the sale of liquor, opium and intoxicating drugs on the occurrence of fairs, festivals, etc., in places in the vicinity of which there are no regularly licensed shops."

Our rule is exactly the same. It is Rule 26, and runs as follows:—

"The Superintendent may, at his discretion, grant occasional licenses for short periods, not exceeding 10 days, for the sale of toddy (or arrack) on the occurrence of fairs, festivals, etc., only in places in the vicinity of which there are no regularly licensed shops or where the existing number of shops is insufficient." If occasional licenses are not given in the Madras Presidency, I fail to see any justification for the provision made in this rule.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—There is much difference between our rule and the British rule. The British rule does not state that occasional licenses will be issued, if there are regular shops.

President.—Such a right is reserved.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The last clause contained in our rule permits this, and this clause is not contained in the British rule.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—We grant licenses during fairs and festivals where there are no regular shops in the vicinity or where the number of shops is insufficient.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—According to the British rule, it is not possible to give occasional licenses where there are regular shops, but according to our rule, for example, during the Trichur Pooram the Cranganur Bharani, etc., it is possible to grant licenses. There is much difference between the two rules.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The question put to me was "whether the Member was aware of the fact that no

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occasional licenses are granted in the Madras Presidency," and the answer has been supplied.

The number of trees licensed for toddy tapping.

125. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of trees licensed for toddy tapping and the number of cocoanut trees, palmyras and sagos licensed for tapping for jaggery toddy, fermented toddy and bakery in the years 1100 and 1101 ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—A statement giving the information asked for is appended. (*Vide Appendix II.*)

The percentage of increase in the number of trees licensed for tapping.

126. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the increase in population from 1091 to the current year and also the percentage of that increase ;

(b) the number of trees licensed for toddy tapping in 1091 and the increase in the number of such trees from 1091—1101 and also the percentage of that increase,

(c) whether the increase in the number of trees licensed for fermented toddy is not in proportion higher than the increase in population, and if so, what is the percentage of such increase ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) Statistics year-wise are not available.

(b) Please see the answer to question No. 61 (legislative session). The increase or decrease can be readily had at a glance from the figures furnished in the answer referred to above.

(c) In view of the answer to sub-division (a) above, no accurate reply can be given.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The percentage of increase asked for has not been given.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The percentage can be worked out.

President.—The answer can be worked out and given.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I did not work it out, because it is not within my exclusive knowledge. If the Member wants, I shall work it out.

President.—He wants the answer to enable this House to know it. You must satisfy each individual Member.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I suppose the Member wants percentage in each succeeding year from 1091 to 1101. I shall work it out.

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